

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are rejected and pending. Responsive to the Office Action mailed May 28, 2003, claims 1, 11, 12, and 21 have been amended. With the amendments provided above and the remarks provided below, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and a withdrawal of all objections and rejections.

Responsive to the objection of claim 12, claim 12 has been amended for formality purposes. Specifically, claim 12 has been amended to recite "the front end having a drive shaft side" as suggested by the Examiner. However, it is to be noted that an amendment to claim 12, line 4 had been made in the previous communication from the Applicants, amending originally filed claim 12 to recite that the inner wall extends from the drive shaft side to an open end to define "the crank case" as suggested by the Examiner. Applicants request reconsideration and a withdrawal of the objection.

Claims 1, 11, and 21 have been amended and now recite that the skirt is "fully slideably engaged with the groove and axially moveable along the groove." The amended language above is supported and adequately described in Figures 2a, 2b, 4-5, 7a-10, and 12a-12b, and pages 5-7 of the specification of the present application. Thus, no new matter has been added.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has set forth 4 separate rejections of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), naming 5 references, Kimura et al. (5,941,161), Terauchi (5,615,599), Rasmussen (3,938,397), Kimura et al. (6,010,313), and Hiramatsu et al. (5,988,041). Each of the references separately fails to teach each and every element as set forth in amended claim 1 of the present application. A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. Amended claim 1 of the application now recites that the skirt is "fully slideably engaged with the groove and axially moveable along the groove." As shown in the figures of each of the cited references, none of the references teaches that the skirt is fully slideably

engaged with the groove and axially moveable along the groove as recited in the amended claim 1.

As for claim 21, the Examiner has set forth 2 separate rejections of claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), separately naming 2 references, Kimura et al. (5,941,161) and Hiramatsu et al. (5,988,041). For the same reasons above, amended claim 21 is not anticipated by Kimura et al. and Hiramatsu et al. Amended claim 21 of the application now recites that the skirt is "fully slideably engaged with the groove and axially moveable along the groove." As shown in the figures of each of the cited references, none of the references teaches that the skirt is fully slideably engaged with the groove and axially moveable along the groove as recited in the amended claim 21.

Claims 2-10 depend from claim 1 and claims 22-28 depend from claim 21, directly or indirectly. Thus, the dependent claims are allowable for the reasons provided above.

Responsive to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 of claims 2-5 and 11-28, any combination of the cited references does not teach or suggest all of the elements of amended claims 11 and 21. As stated above, claims 11 and 21 now call for the skirt being "fully slideably engaged with the groove and axially moveable along the groove." To the contrary, the cited references alone or in combination do not teach all the elements of claims 11 and 21.

Claims 2-5 depend from claim 1, claims 12-16 and 18-20 depend from claim 11, and claims 22-28 depend from claim 21, directly or indirectly. Thus, the dependent claims are allowable for the reasons provided above.

Applicant has calculated no fees to be presently due in connection with the filing of this Paper. However, Applicant has authorized charging of any fee deficiency to the deposit account of Applicant's assignee, Visteon Global Technologies, Inc., as indicated in the Transmittal accompanying this Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

July 28, 2003

Date



Lawrence G. Almeda (Reg. No. 46,151)

☒ Attorney Of Record

☐ 37 C.F.R. 1.34(a)